



# **Heat Press Safety and Basic Use**

**COURSE #**

**Version 1.0**

## The Fine Print

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## Colophon

These materials were created electronically using Microsoft Word®. Art was produced using Adobe Illustrator®, Adobe PhotoShop® and SnagIt® for screen captures. The Arial® family of typefaces is used throughout these materials. These materials were written by Tamara Hoyt.

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## **Course Synopsis**

In this Safety and Basic Use (SBU) class, you will learn to the heat press to easily create textile projects.

***Time Required: 2 Hours***

### **Tools Required**

- ☐ Heat Press
- ☐ CNC Vinyl Cutter
- ☐ Weeding Tools

### **Materials Required**

- ☐ Material to be transferred
- ☐ Fabric or garment to receive transfer

## **SAFETY**

### **General Safety**

- ◇ Eye protection is required when working with anything that might get into your eyes, like metal shards, chemicals, and/or sawdust. Ear protection should also be considered around loud equipment
- ◇ Closed-toe shoes must be worn at all times
- ◇ Long-sleeved shirts should be worn when working with chemicals, short-sleeved shirts should be worn for anything with a rotary motor (saws, mills, lathes, etc.)
- ◇ Never leave a machine running and unattended

### **Shop Etiquette**

- ◇ Never talk to anyone while they are working on a piece of equipment
- ◇ Leave the area you are working in cleaner than when you arrived
- ◇ Never leave a machine running and unattended
- ◇ Begin final clean-up and store your project no later than 11:30 PM

### **Equipment Specific Safety**

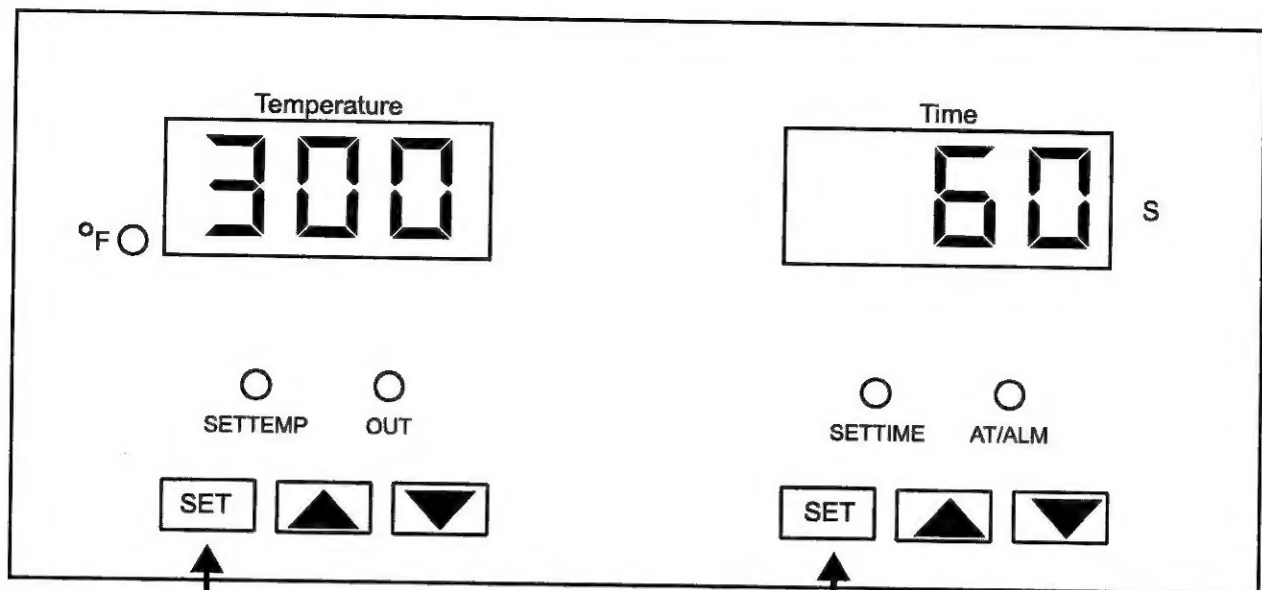
- ◇ The heat press is hot! Be careful not to burn yourself.
- ◇ The heat press has an automatic release mechanism built in that will cause the handle to pop up. Please make sure your face is not over the handle at any time.
- ◇ Always test fabric for temperature reactions. Do not use fabric that melts at the designated temperature in the heat press. Natural fibers are preferred; and please check with a DC before trying any synthetic fabrics.

## Heat Press

The heat press makes fast work of shirts and bags, as well as complex multi-color designs.

The heat press uses a special material to apply designs onto the surface of textile projects, like shirts and bags.





Press this SET button once to set your temperature. The SETTEMP light will light up and you can use the arrow keys to adjust the temperature. To finalize the temperature setting press the SET button one more time. The heat press will begin heating to the selected temperature and the OUT light will light up.

Press this SET button once to set your timer. The SETTIME light will light up and you can use the arrow keys to select the desired time to keep your garment under the press. To finalize the timer setting press the SET button one more time. Once you press the handle down the timer will start. When it completes the cycle the AT/ALM light will light up and allowing you to release the garment.

It is important to verify the correct temperature and time settings with different brands of heat press inks and vinyls. The settings will depend on many things like color, brand, how it was made. Bad settings can result in a bad print and a messy tool.



### Pressing your vinyl:

Cut and weed your material on the vinyl cutter. On most material, the transfer paper is included. Make sure to mirror your image and weed everything you do not want transferred to the fabric.

Prepress your item. This is a necessary step to ensure the fabric is wrinkle free, as well as to help pull any moisture out of the fabric. Put the fabric into the tool, and pull the handle down. Verify that your pre-press time is show, and then push down on the handle until it locks. The timer will countdown and release automatically.

Place your vinyl on your fabric. Put the fabric into the tool, and pull the handle down. Verify that your press time is show, and then push down on the handle until it locks. The timer will countdown and release automatically.

Be careful not to burn yourself on the machine or while pulling the backing material off. If the design is not stuck to the fabric, press again.

If you are doing another color, repeat the process. **Make sure to cover any exposed material so that it does not melt onto the tool.** A piece of paper works well as a resist.

Viola! You're all done. Turn off the tool and clean up any mess you have made. Sweep the floor in the general vicinity, and tuck the heat press in against the wall.

### Troubleshooting –

- **The heat press vinyl will not stick:**
  - You may not have pressed the material long enough. Simply repress.
  - The tool really prefers natural materials (cotton, viscos, etc). If you are working with a synthetic material, you may need to press more then one time.
  - There may not be enough pressure. Adjust accordingly.
- **When I press the fabric, it is on the wrong setting (pre-press or press):**
  - The tool works in cycles. If you pull the handle down, and the wrong number is displayed, simply lift the handle back up. When you depress the handle again, it should be on the correct step in the cycle.

### Clean-Up:

- Sweep the floor in the general vicinity
- Tuck the heat press in against the wall
- If you have used a special setup or have changed something so that it is no longer in its expected position, please find a staff member to help you correct this

310@10sec

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

For this class, you will be given a tote bag or t-shirt, and you will heat press a design on it.

If you have **any** questions about any operation or task, be sure to ask your instructor or another TechShop staff member before proceeding.

### Preparing for this project

Turn on the tool and adjust setting for the material.

#### Steps for success

1. Check for correct pressure and adjust accordingly
2. Turn on the tool
3. Set pre press time, press time, and temperature
4. Cut material on the vinyl cutter.
5. Weed out unwanted material.
6. Pre-press your fabric.
7. Apply your material to your fabric.
8. Press you material.
9. Remove backing material.
10. Enjoy!

#### Last Step: Clean-up



TITLE SBU

## COOL LINKS

Order heatpress vinyl at [www.synergy17.com](http://www.synergy17.com)

## WHAT'S NEXT?

After successfully completing this **TXL\_\_\_ HEAT PRESS SBU**, you might be interested in these classes:

- LAS101 Laser Cutting and Etching SBU
- LAS103 Fabric Etching with the Laser
- TXL101 Basic Sewing machine SBU
- LAS203 Advanced Laser Cutting and Etching

Don't forget to join the TechShop Forum at <http://www.TechShop.ws/Forums>. Get *all* the answers!

